

Docket No. 10592RRUS01U

EXPRESS MAIL NO.  
EL356872832US**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING CONTROL  
MESSAGES IN A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

5

A method and apparatus in a communications system for processing control messages for a session in a packet-based network within the communications system. A first indicator is set in a control message for handling a session within the communications system through the packet-based network. The control message is sent to a destination within the packet-based network. The control message is provided priority processing within the packet-based network based on the presence of the first indicator. A second indicator is set in a header of a packet used to transport the control message, such that nodes within the packet based network, which do not examine the control message, provide priority processing of the packet in sending the packet through the packet-based network to the destination.

001290-5956560